

4.1 PUBLIC POLICY

This section identifies the alternatives' conformity with NASA, Santa Clara County, Mountain View and Sunnyvale policy.

A. Standards of Significance

An alternative for the NASA Ames Development Plan (NADP) would have a significant impact with regard to policy consistency if it would:

- Conflict with existing NASA policies or long-range goals.
- Conflict with local policies or long-range planning goals.

B. Impact Discussion

This section discusses the potential conflicts between relevant public policies and each of the five proposed alternatives for the NADP. These involve direct conflicts between the policy decisions that form the basis of each of the alternatives and NASA and local policy. These direct policy impacts are treated in depth in this section and mitigation measures for them are proposed.

1. NASA Policy

Among the laws, plans, and policies that guide NASA's planning for the future of Ames Research Center are the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 (42 U.S.C. § 2451 *et seq.*) and the NASA Ames Proposed Six Point Initiative. This section describes the relationship between the five alternative development scenarios and these two documents.

a. Space Act

The National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 (Space Act) is NASA's implementing legislation that sets its objectives, procedures, and policies, as described in Chapter 3 of this EIS. Relevant Space Act objectives include those relating to the expansion of human knowledge of Earth and space, the development and improvement of aeronautical and space vehicles, the effective

use of U.S. engineering and research resources, and the preservation of the U.S.'s leadership role in aeronautical and space science and technology.

The alternatives would bear the following relationships to the Space Act:

- Alternative 1 would maintain existing and approved uses at Ames Research Center, which are currently consistent with the Space Act.
- Alternatives 2 through 5 would further NASA's mission in relation to the objectives outlined by the Space Act by promoting research collaboration between NASA and government agencies, universities, private industry and non-profit organizations for the development of new technologies and the advancement of human knowledge about space, the Earth, and society.

b. NASA Ames Proposed Six Point Initiative

In 1997, as the basis of a joint agreement with the Cities of Mountain View and Sunnyvale, NASA proposed the Six Point Initiative to describe new uses of Ames Research Center that would be consistent with NASA's mission and would respond to the CAC's recommendation for the reuse of Moffett Field. The Six Point Initiative aims to expand commercial space product development and the Ames Technology Commercialization Center (ATCC); to develop information technology institutes, an Astrobiology Institute, and the California Air and Space Center; and to extend the Bay Trail through the northern portion of Ames Research Center and along its northern border.

The alternatives for the NADP would bear the following relationships to the Six Point Initiative:

- Alternative 1 would not include any new development above the Baseline, which would meet five of the points included in the Six Point Initiative.
- Alternatives 2 through 5 would incorporate and expand upon all of the proposed points in the Initiative.

c. Joint Policy Efforts

The elements of joint Mountain View and Sunnyvale Policy relevant to the NADP include the Final Report of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Moffett Federal Airfield and the Moffett-Cities Agreement, as described in Section 3.1 of this EIS. This section describes the relationship between the five alternative development scenarios and these joint policy documents.

i. Community Advisory Committee on Moffett Federal Airfield

The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) on Moffett Federal Airfield was formed in 1996 and consisted of 19 members: nine each from Mountain View and Sunnyvale, and one representing the Santa Clara Cities Association, as described in Chapter 3 of this EIS. The CAC focused its efforts primarily on identifying new uses for Ames Research Center that would maintain NASA as the Center's federal steward. The CAC endorsed NASA's Six Point Initiative, as described above, and developed various recommendations about appropriate land uses.

Alternatives 1 through 5 would be compatible with the CAC's recommendations. All five alternatives are also compatible with the CAC's recommendations that discourage expanded use of the airfield.

ii. Ames Cities Agreement

In 1998, the City of Sunnyvale, the City of Mountain View, and NASA signed a Memorandum of Understanding that established a federal-local collaboration to seek to develop a shared-use, Research and Development campus at Ames Research Center, as described in Chapter 3 of this EIS. The collaboration focuses on five priority areas: establishing the California Air and Space Center, facilitating the development of research institutes and joint ventures with information technology companies to pursue future technologies for aeronautic and space missions, establishing the Astrobiology Institute, expanding the ATCC, and pursuing a variety of collaboration involving government and commercial opportunities that support the mission of NASA.

The alternatives would relate to the Ames Cities Agreement in the following ways:

- Alternative 1 would meet all of the priority areas defined by the Ames Cities Agreement except for establishment of the California Air and Space Center, but not to as great an extent as the other alternatives.
- Alternative 2, 3, 4, and 5 would include all of the priority areas set out in the Ames Cities Agreement.

2. Local and Regional Land Use Policy

As noted in Section 3.1, NASA is a federal agency and is not bound to follow local land use policies and regulations. However, NASA attempts to do so whenever possible.

To this end, the preparation of this EIS has included a full analysis of the consistency of the NADP with the local policies and regulations listed in Section 3.1. This analysis found no significant conflicts between the NADP and the policies of Santa Clara County, Mountain View, Sunnyvale, and the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD).

Because no significant conflicts were found, a detailed discussion of the relationship between planning policies and the five proposed alternatives is not included in this section. Instead, it can be found in Appendix A.

3. Cumulative Impacts

Since the NADP and its alternatives would create no inconsistency with NASA, local or regional policies, there is no way that the NADP could combine with the cumulative projects listed in Chapter 2 to create cumulative policy impacts.

C. Impacts and Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts are identified in Section B. Hence, no mitigation measures are required.

NASA AMES RESEARCH CENTER
NASA AMES DEVELOPMENT PLAN
FINAL PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES: PUBLIC POLICY